



My name is Alon Berkowitz, I am a senior at Lehigh University, and I am on the football team. Originally, I was recruited to play lacrosse here at Lehigh but shortly after arriving to campus I decided to make the transition to football instead even though I had never played the sport before. I have always been an athlete and I believe it was my athletics that led me to my interest in photography. Part of the thrill of athletics are the milestones or pressured moments that an athlete faces in his career. Whether it is a big game, a recruiter watching, or just having the presence of your family in the stands, an athlete always wants to impress and make the most of the moment. One of the best ways of capturing those triumphant moments is through photography. I take pride in being able to look back at major milestones in my athletic career through pictures that were taken of me. I've come to appreciate photography very much and look forward to capturing those precious moments of life that make it all so special and allow you to share it with those you love most.



Raw Nature

Alon Berkowitz



As I began to capture the essence of raw nature and how it has woven itself into our evolving industrial society, I quickly learned that no matter how much we grow industrially, nature will inevitably take over in the end.

To capture these feelings and thoughts, I captured the scenery from two locations. The first being Bethlehem Pennsylvania, where I attend Lehigh University. This small town of Bethlehem was once the center of the steel industry not only in America, but in the whole world. Unfortunately, as global markets developed, the town eventually fell flat and has now become a manufacturing wasteland. With the Lehigh river close by and railroad tracks throughout the area, the opportunity for quality shots was prominent.

The second location I chose involved traveling with a good friend of mine Greg Gardner to his home town of Chadds Ford, PA. There we were able to find incredible sightings of man-made structures that were overtaken by nature. I felt that the combination of mankind's impact with nature's raw dominance was thrilling and truly eye opening to the viewer. Understanding that our impact is but a mere moment in time in nature's timeline is an unbelievable thought that I worked hard to express in this book.

To capture these shots, I used a wide range of aperture settings to fine tune the depth perception and focus of the images. Lighting was a key aspect in the creation of this book, as I relied solely on natural lighting, rejecting the use of artificial light. Many shots require the viewer to focus in on light to distinguish the contrast between nature and its industrialized counterpart.

Raw Nature is a story of the true essence of nature, and how its power stems from its ability to adapt and overtake anything in its path. Everything we have is rooted in nature and we must always respect its presence and the beauty it provides us with.

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